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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Revised
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING



STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK NORTH AND WEST
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS LOOKS GOOD

POTATO SPRAY RINGS

For three years groups of farmers in Bennington County, Vermont, have been doing cooperative potato spraying under the general direction of County Agent F.C. Shaw. Mr. Shaw describes the organization and operation of the "spray rings" as follows:

"Two directors were secured to finance each association. The practice has been for them to sign a bank note to cover the total cost of running the association, and they have acted in an advisory way in determining policies and important matters. One of the directors has acted as treasurer. In each association a subscription list of those desiring to have their potatoes sprayed was solicited, and no attempt was made to perfect an organization until the list totaled approximately fifty acres within reasonable distance of each other. In operating the associations one man has been hired for about two months to keep the sprayer going from early in July until the end of the growing season. This operator keeps track of the time spent in spraying on each farm and all of the materials used. Upon his report at the end of the season is worked out a pro rata basis of the cost of spraying. A summary of the charges of one of the associations is as follows:

Cost of machine and incidentals for each individual acre sprayed	\$.47
Arsenate per pound	.34
Copper sulphate per pound	.09
Lime per pound	.013
Man labor and horse labor per hour	1.185

One of the big factors in determining the successfulness of the association is to secure an operator who is thorough in his work and able to mix well with the farmers. An operator in each association did the spraying, kept account of the materials and prepared the Bordeaux. The average cost per acre in the Shaftsbury Association where 257 acres were sprayed was \$2.06 per acre for each application. This included material, labor, use of machines and incidentals. In addition to this the farm on which the spraying was done provided the team for doing the work.

"Following is the form of contract used by the Manchester-Rupert Association:

We, the undersigned subscribers, hereby agree to contribute to expense of purchasing, maintenance and operation of a potato spraying equipment and to have sprayed under the direction of the Bennington County agent all the potatoes we raise on our respective farms; such contribution to be a proportionate part of the expense of such purchase, maintenance and spraying to be based upon acreage, time spent in labor and cost of material used in such spraying.

We understand and agree that (two directors) are to furnish the funds necessary to defray the whole of the expense incurred in this proposition and we each agree to pay our respective proportionate parts as the same may be determined by said directors as soon after September 15 as such assessments may be determined and we are furnished statements thereof. It is further agreed that until the above named directors shall have been reimbursed in full for money so advanced by them that the spraying equipment and all material shall remain their property, or if they deem it advisable the equipment may be sold at public sale before our proportions are determined.

And we (the two directors) in consideration of the signing of this list by farmers representing at least fifty acres of potatoes, hereby agree to furnish the necessary funds for purchasing, equipping, maintaining and operating said spraying apparatus."

: County Agent Section
: 5-28-'21
: No. 48-L

W.L.B.